

March 10, 2008

Clergy Colleagues,

I am writing to invite you and your congregations to make plans to participate in our second annual Pulpit Exchange. In 2007, we exchanged pulpits in February, in observance of Race Relations Sunday. This year, we will seek better weather and a different expression of our diversity. Our Pulpit Exchange will be held on April 27th, which is both Rural Life Sunday and Earth Stewardship Sunday. We hope to expose some of our urban congregations to some “country preaching” and urban preachers to “country hospitality” We are inviting pastors, other licensed or ordained clergy, and STEM graduates to make themselves available for preaching in wonderfully different places.

As in the past, we are asking congregations that both send and receive a preacher to simply pay their own pastor’s usual salary and mileage. For those congregations that invite a guest preacher, with their pastor present, we request that they either provide a stipend for the guest preacher or send a contribution to the Regional Office (to help create a pool to pay preachers). Please do not opt out of this opportunity because of the expense. We will find funds to ensure that all preachers who participate are paid.

The exchange is a “scrambled” one, meaning that congregations will not be receiving the pastor of the church that is hosting their pastor. We will be all over the region, to the extent that each preacher is willing to travel. Please try to avoid requests for a particular preacher or pulpit. Such requests narrow the possible assignments of everyone else. I would encourage pastors who want to do a straight exchange to do so on another Sunday and to join us in this Regional Exchange.

Please respond as soon as possible, but no later than March 30th. This will allow time to make the assignments and notify preachers and congregations by April 6th. We had about 1/3 of our pulpits filled by guests last year. I believe that we can double that this year. Ask any of the preachers or congregants who participated about their experience. I am sure that they will encourage your participation. If you have questions, I can be reached at:

Office – 734 662 4245 aamccpastor@provide.net

Home – 734 482 1968 revsgreen@sbcglobal.net

I look forward to hearing from you. This will give us more to talk about at JAMRA (May 16-17).

In Christ,

Dr. Irvin W. Green, Pastor
Memorial Christian Church (DOC), Ann Arbor

PULPIT EXCHANGE 2008
APRIL 27TH
MICHIGAN REGION – CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

Congregation_____ Pastor_____

Address_____ City_____

Church Phone_____ Pastor's Phone_____

Home name and number for preacher to contact_____

Service time_____ Sunday School time_____

Our Congregation will:

Send and receive a preacher____

Host a preacher only____

We can provide lodging, if requested____

We will provide a meal, after service____

We can neither send nor host, but will contribute to help defray expenses for others____

We will not participate____

FOR PREACHERS

Name_____ Congregation_____

Address_____ City_____

Office Phone_____ Home Phone_____

Ordained____ Licensed____ STEM Grad____

I will preach at a congregation within:

25 miles____ 50 miles____ 100 miles____ Any Distance____

I will arrive on Sunday morning____ Saturday night____

Please complete applicable sections and return (by March 30th) to:

Dr. Irvin Green, Pastor

Memorial Christian Church (DOC)

730 Tappan St., Ann Arbor 48104